



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

May 27, 2014

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Katjana Ballantyne	Chair	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Vice Chair	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Absent	

Others present: Matt Buckley, Hayes Morrison, Omar Boukili

Approval of the Minutes of September 25, 2013

RESULT:

APPROVED

195591 - That the Director of Transportation and Infrastructure conduct a tree survey of Powderhouse Boulevard and produce a tree planting schedule that will maintain the current tree canopy.:

Ms. Morrison spoke about the city's 5-year tree plan.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196628 - That the City Solicitor provide this Board with information regarding plastic bag reduction techniques utilized in other MA municipalities, as well as whether the city can place a deposit fee on such bags or regulate their use to contain free advertisers.:

Mr. Buckley spoke about ordinances in other communities and said that he believes that such an ordinance in Somerville would be defensible. He noted, however, that placing a deposit fee on plastic bags would be problematic. Members discussed the legislative process involved and the timeline and Mr. Boukili requested that the item be kept in committee until a new Environmental Programs Manager is hired.

Alderman Gewirtz suggested modeling Somerville's ordinance after Brookline's and recommended a threshold of 5,000 (or more) square feet. Members made various recommendations and requested that the Law Department prepare a draft ordinance for the committee's review.

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

197029 - That the Director of Sustainability and Environment update this Board on steps being taken to educate businesses and enforcement regarding the city's polystyrene ban.:

Mr. Boukili requested that the item be kept in committee until a new director begins employment at the end of June.

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

197061 - Assistant City Solicitor Responding to #196628 re: Plastic Bag Reduction.:

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**